

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Process for coding images according to the MPEG standard, for the insetting of at least one imagette into an image, utilizing the inter mode with motion estimation with respect to a reference image and the intra mode, wherein

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- an exclusion zone which includes the macroblocks which lie even partially in the location of the imagette is defined in the reference image,
  - the motion estimation of the macroblocks of the image not belonging to the exclusion zone does not take account of an image block belonging to the exclusion zone in the reference image, marking of the macroblocks of the reference image belonging to the exclusion zone being implemented through luminance values of these macroblocks in order to perform said motion estimation,
  - macroblocks belonging to the exclusion zone of the image are replaced by macroblocks making up the imagette.

2. (Original) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the inter mode for the coding of the macroblocks of the image belonging to an exclusion zone is an inter mode with null motion vectors.

3. (Original) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the intra mode is forced for the coding of the macroblocks of the image belonging to an exclusion zone.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim [[4]] 1, wherein the marking consists in performing a transcoding of the luminance values of the macroblocks by decrementing the values equal to the maximum coding value and then

by forcing the luminance values of the macroblocks belonging to the exclusion zone to this maximum value.

6. (Original) Process according to Claim 1, wherein, for a given row of macroblocks, the coding allocates a specific slice for the macroblocks belonging to an exclusion zone.

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7. (Original) Process for inserting an imagette into an image coded according to the process of Claim 3, wherein the macroblocks of an intra-coded slice are replaced by macroblocks relating to the imagette.

8. (Original) Process according to Claim 7, wherein the replacement consists of a recovery of the intra-coded macroblocks corresponding to the exclusion zones, a baseband decoding of these macroblocks, a mixing with the imagette to be inset into the exclusion zone, a coding of the image obtained so as to provide the replacement macroblocks.

9. (Original) Process according to Claim 8, wherein the coding adapts the quantization interval for the macroblocks belonging to the exclusion zone as a function of the cost of coding the macroblocks to be inserted.

10. (Currently Amended) Device for coding digital video data according to the MPEG standard for the inseting of at least one imagette into an image, comprising a memory to store a reconstructed image and a motion estimation circuit to calculate motion vectors by comparing a source image to the reconstructed image, a subtractor receiving on a first input an intra-macroblock and on a second input a predicted macroblock to be subtracted from the intra-macroblock so as to provide an inter macroblock, a circuit for selecting an inter or intra mode receiving the corresponding intra macroblock or inter macroblock for selecting one of the macroblocks according to an energy criterion, a circuit for transforming and quantizing the macroblock selected so as to provide a macroblock of quantized coefficients a circuit for the variable length

B' ~~coding of the macroblock of quantized coefficients and a buffer memory for providing a data stream at the output of the coding device, an inverse quantization and inverse transformation circuit for obtaining a macroblock reconstituted from the macroblock of quantized coefficients, an adder of the reconstituted macroblock, a memory and predictor for storing the reconstructed macroblock and providing a reconstructed image, a motion estimator receiving the intra macroblock and the reconstructed macroblocks so as to provide a motion vector for the memory and predictor so as to calculate the predicted block, a regulating circuit receiving information from the buffer memory so as to set a quantization interval for the transform and quantization circuit, wherein:~~

~~the selection circuit and the motion estimation circuit receive an information item pertaining to an exclusion zone which includes the macroblocks lying, even partially, in the location of the imagette,~~

~~the selection circuit forces the intra coding of the macroblocks belonging to this exclusion zone,~~

~~the motion estimation circuit calculates the memory is coupled to the motion estimation circuit through a transcoding and marking circuit for transcoding the luminance of the reconstructed image and marking macroblocks belonging to an exclusion zone which includes the macroblocks lying, even partially, in the location of the imagette, through luminance values of these macroblocks, in order to calculate the motion vectors while eliminating the motion vectors pointing from the blocks macroblocks of the reconstructed image belonging to the exclusion zone~~

~~and in that it comprises a substitution circuit to substitute, in the data stream, macroblocks corresponding to the exclusion zone by macroblocks coding the imagette.~~

11. (Cancelled)